(c) whether any funds allocated by the D.V.C. & N.T.P.C. under the Social Integrated Scheme for the development of rural areas of Bokaro and Korba have been returned due to non-utilisation under the schemes;

(d) if so, the total funds returned during the last five years; and

(e) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) No funds have been allocated by the Central Government/State Governments to Bokaro Thermal Power Station of DVC and Korba Thermal Power Project of NTPC for rural development works under the Social Integrated Scheme during the last three years. However, DVC and NTPC have undertaken community development programmes of villages in the vicinity of their Project areas out of their own internal resources. DVC has spent Rs.32.47 lakhs till 1995-96 and and further a sum of Rs.39 lakhs has been allocated for the year 1996-97 for undertaking village development in and around the Bokaro Thermal Power project. The works taken up/proposed include construction of school buildings, roads, community and health centres etc.

NTPC has spent Rs. 95.30 lakhs till 1995-96 for development works around the Korba Thermal Power project. The works undertaken there include renovation of electrification systems of the nearby villages, construction of colleges including a women's college, school buildings, Gram Sabha Bhawan, construction and renovation of village roads. Funds have also been earmarked for providing/augmenting drinking water facilities.

(c) and (d). No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Panchayatiraj System

2813. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has requested the Union Government for extending the provisions of Part IX of the Constitution of India (Panchayatiraj System) to the Scheduled Areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Necessary legislation for extending the provision of Part IX of the Constitution relating to Panchayati Raj to the Scheduled Areas is proposed to be introduced in the current Session of Parliament.

Energy Conservation Programme

2814. PROF. OMPAL SINGH NIDAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated a comprehensive strategy for conservation of power;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the fiscal incentives being given in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) The strategy of the Government for conservation of power inter alia includes :

- awareness, education and training;
- support for energy audits and research demonstration projects;
- fixing and promoting energy efficiency standards for electrical appliances;
- formulating energy consumption norms to various energy intensive sectors;
- fiscal and financial incentives;
- institutional and organisation arrangements;
- Strengthening the data/information base on energy consumption and efficiency improvements;
- reduction of transmission and distribution losses.

(c) 100% depreciation under the provisions of the Income Tax Act is allowed on installation on notified energy saving devices which presently include certain kinds of specialised boilers and furnaces, burners, instrumentation and monitoring systems for monitoring energy flows, waste heat recovery equipments, cogeneration systems, electrical equipments and other energy saving devices.

NTPC and NHPC

2815. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :
DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "NTPC, NHPC funds fail to energise mega projects" appearing in the 'Economic Times' dated October 8, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto, and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to energise these mega power projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.